

Small Business Week comes to San Francisco May 12 - 17

The U.S. celebrates the contribution of entrepreneurs to America's economy each year with National Small Business Week. From May 12 through 17, SBA's San Francisco District Office will partner with other government agencies and major corporations to present events around the Bay Area to celebrate the week.

"We're really glad to be working so successfully with all our partners this year. They're great supporters of the small business community here and this is a chance for all of us to show our appreciation for the hard work small businesses do year round," said Mark Quinn, SBA District Director. Co-sponsors with SBA for Small Business Week are the San Francisco Small Business Commission, Wells Fargo, Microsoft, Cisco Systems, PG&E, Comcast, the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the San Francisco Small Business Development Center

Registration for most events is available at www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw. More information is available at www.sfsmallbusinessweek.com or call Gary Marshall at (415) 744 6771.

Small businesses can start the week with the annual Kick Off Event in City Hall on Monday, May 12, 6:00 PM for networking with other entrepreneurs, corporations and organizations. "You can come meet new customers and find plenty of leads. We'll also be featuring Flavors of San Francisco, with tastings from outstanding local restaurants. If you're in business, this is an evening you shouldn't miss," said Marshall.

For the newest businesses, SBA and Wells Fargo are scheduling basic workshops on how to start a business on May 13 in neighborhoods around San Francisco including City College's Oceanside campus, the Mission, Bayview, and the LGBT Center on Market. Topics covered will include marketing, management, financing and resources. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association with Five Star Restaurant Consultants will present Restaurant Bootcamp at Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason on May 13, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM, a series of workshops throughout the day that range from getting your doors open to the newest in scheduling software and the green product providers. Registration and information to attend or exhibit at www.restaurantbootcamp.com

Tuesday evening, May 13, SBA and Wells Fargo will co-host the Golden Gate Business Association's monthly Make Contact networking event at the LGBT Center on Market St. GGBA is America's oldest gay and lesbian chamber of commerce. www.ggba.com

The new San Francisco Economic Development Alliance will premiere with the State of Small Business in San Francisco at City College Mission Campus auditorium, 1125 Valencia St. on May 14, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Two panel discussions will consider the status and trends of entrepreneurs in San Francisco. The SFEDA consists of 11 member organizations, which support and help develop small businesses and micro-enterprises in the City. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

The evening of May 14, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce invites you to their Grand Expo Marketplace at the Hilton San Francisco Grand Ballroom, 333 O'Farrell St. featuring a reception with more than 100 exhibitors which will include Chamber members, caterers, wineries and local non-profits. www.sfchamber.com

Co-sponsors Wells Fargo and the Chamber will join SBA to offer a special seminar on Financing for Your Business at the Chamber the evening of May 15. Discover the right way to seek financing for your business. The panel discussion will cover loan proposals and financing options. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

As part of the Week's celebration, Microsoft has scheduled their "Day in the Life" Small Business Conference at 835 Market, Suite 700, Westfield Center, May 13 through 15, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM each day.

The conference will present speakers and training on sales and marketing; internet business skills; and financial software. Attendees will receive free software, hardware, training vouchers and other offers. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

Cisco Systems will present Business on the Go at the SBA Entrepreneur Center, 455 Market St. 6th floor on May 13 and 15, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM to discuss how their business series communication's platform can help you stay connected to customers while in the office or on the go. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

SBA, PG&E and the San Francisco SBDC will present an Introduction to Sustainable Business Management at the Pacific Energy Center, 851 Howard Street, on May 16, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM with a reception and vendor fair following at 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. The session will show you how you can increase your organization's profitability and efficiency while becoming a more socially and environmentally responsible business. www.acteva.com/go/sfsbw

Finally, come out and shop. Area businesses will be setting up sidewalk sales all over San Francisco as part of the celebration, thanks to the organizational support of the San Francisco Small Business Commission on May 17.